

# POTENTIAL OF CONTEMPORARY EARTH ARCHITECTURE FOR LOW IMPACT BUILDING IN BELGIUM

SBE19 Graz  
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Yazd, Iran  
(Jasper Van der Linden, 2011)



Haus Rauch, Schlins, Austria, 2008  
*(Beat Bücher)*



Watchtower Negenoord, Belgium, 2016  
(*Jasper Van der Linden, 2019*)

# Study: potential of contemporary earth architecture for low impact building in Belgium

1. Advantages and limitations of earth construction: current literature
2. Building Case studies:
  - 2 projects
  - Verify validity of literature
    - Interviews with architects
    - Project study
3. Conclude
  - Financial cost
  - Technical aspects
  - Environmental impact

# Literature: advantages and limitations of earth construction

as listed by Egenti C, Khatib J. 2016

## ADVANTAGES

### LOW COST

ENCOURAGES SELF-HELP

GOOD SOUND INSULATION

GOOD HEAT INSULATION

GOOD FIRE RESISTANCE

IMPROVES INDOOR AIR QUALITY

CAPABLE OF PROVIDING STRONG AND SECURED STRUCTURE

PROMOTES CULTURE, NATURAL MATERIAL

### REUSABLE

LOW EMBODIED ENERGY

SAVES ENERGY AND NO EMISSION OF CO2

### SUFFICIENTLY AVAILABLE

## LIMITATIONS

### NON-STANDARDISED MATERIAL

STRUCTURALLY LIMITED

**NON-RESISTANT TO WATER** AND LESS RESILIENT

NEEDS HIGH MAINTENANCE

SUITABLE ONLY FOR IN SITU CONSTRUCTION

### SPECIAL SKILLS REQUIRED

# case studies

bioclass & observation tower



Bioclass, Edegem (Antwerp), 2018  
BC architects & studies  
(*Thomas Noceto*)



Observation tower, Negenoord (Limburg), 2016  
De gouden liniaal architecten  
(*Filip Dujardin*)

# case studies

compressed earth bricks & rammed earth



Bioclass Edegem (Antwerp), 2018  
Load-bearing compressed earth bricks  
(*Thomas Noceto*)



Observation tower Negenoord (Limburg), 2016  
Rammed earth  
(*Filip Dujardin*)



# case study

bioclass (compressed earth bricks)



Bioclass Edegem (Antwerp), 2018  
Load-bearing compressed earth bricks  
*(Thomas Noceto)*



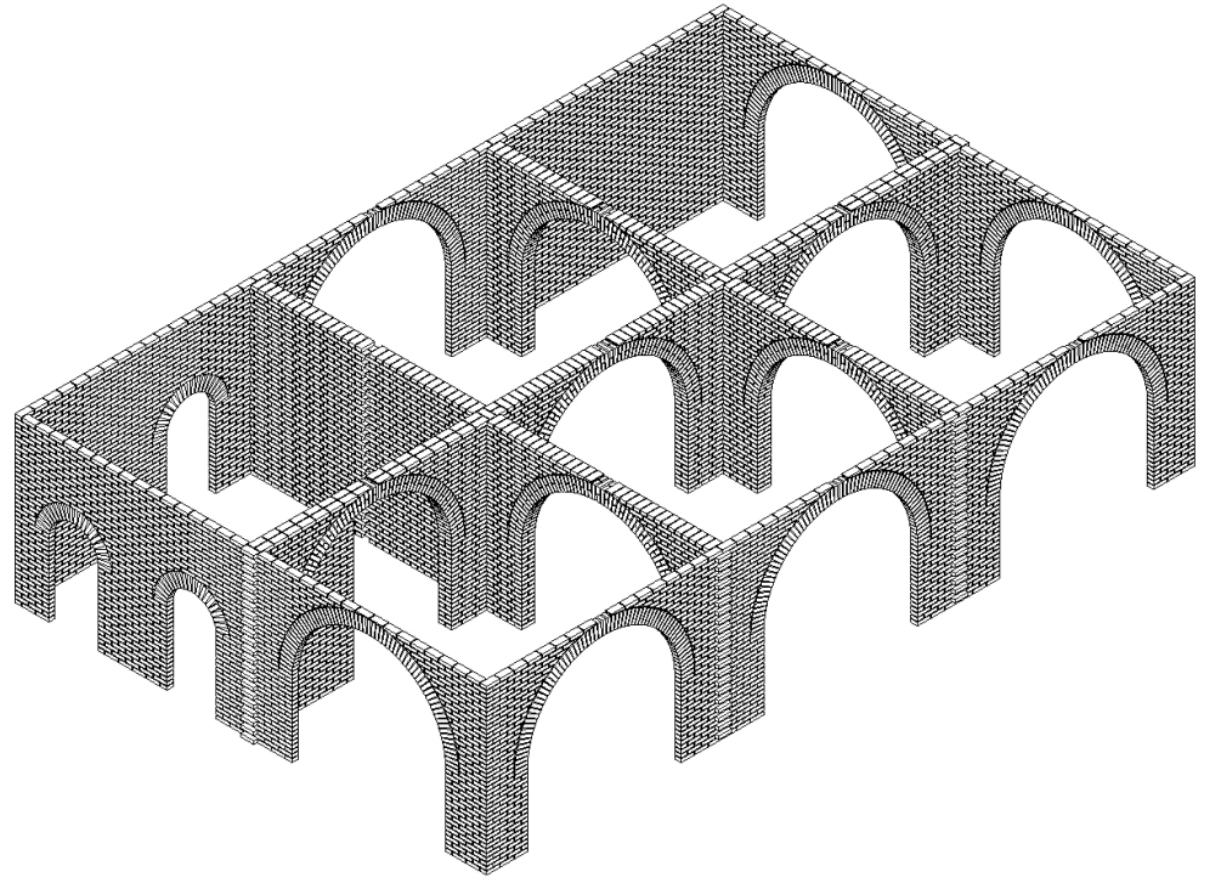
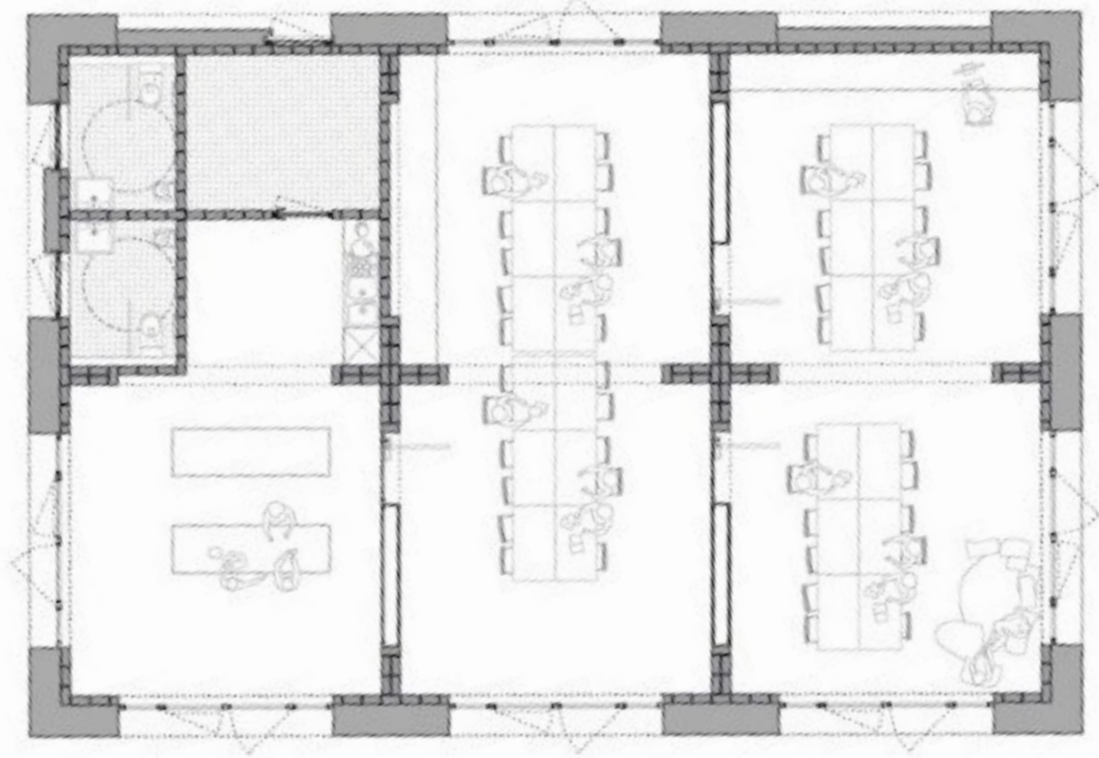
Observation tower Negenoord (Limburg)  
Rammed earth  
*(Filip Dujardin)*



Bioclass, Edegem, 2018  
Load-bearing compressed earth bricks  
*(Thomas Noceto)*



Bioclass, Edegem, 2018  
Load-bearing compressed earth bricks  
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Bioclass, Edegem, 2018  
Load-bearing compressed earth bricks  
(BC architects & studies)



Bioclass, Edegem, 2018  
Load-bearing compressed earth bricks  
(*BC architects & studies*)

# case study

observation tower (rammed earth)



Bioclass, Edegem, 2018  
Load-bearing compressed earth bricks  
*(BC architects & studies)*



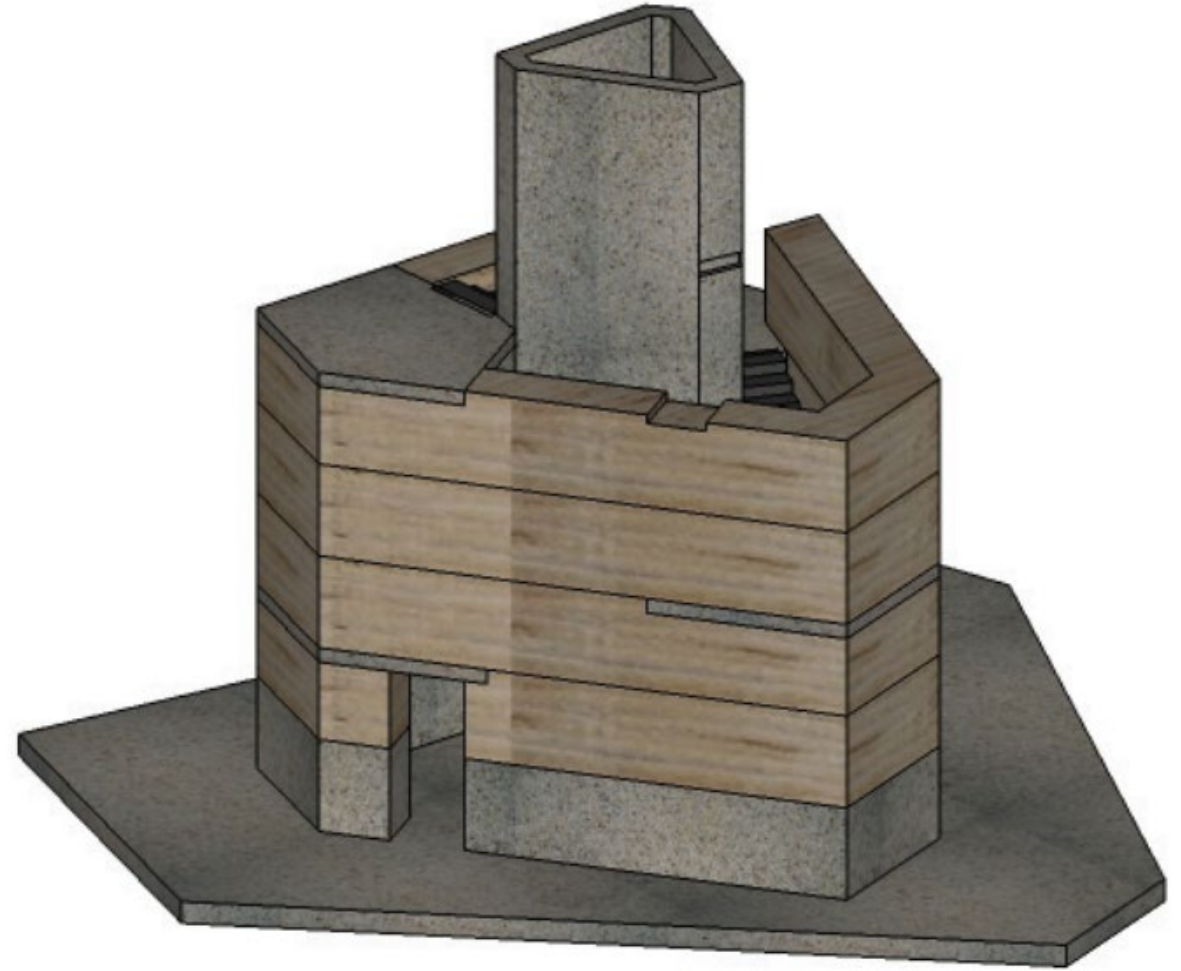
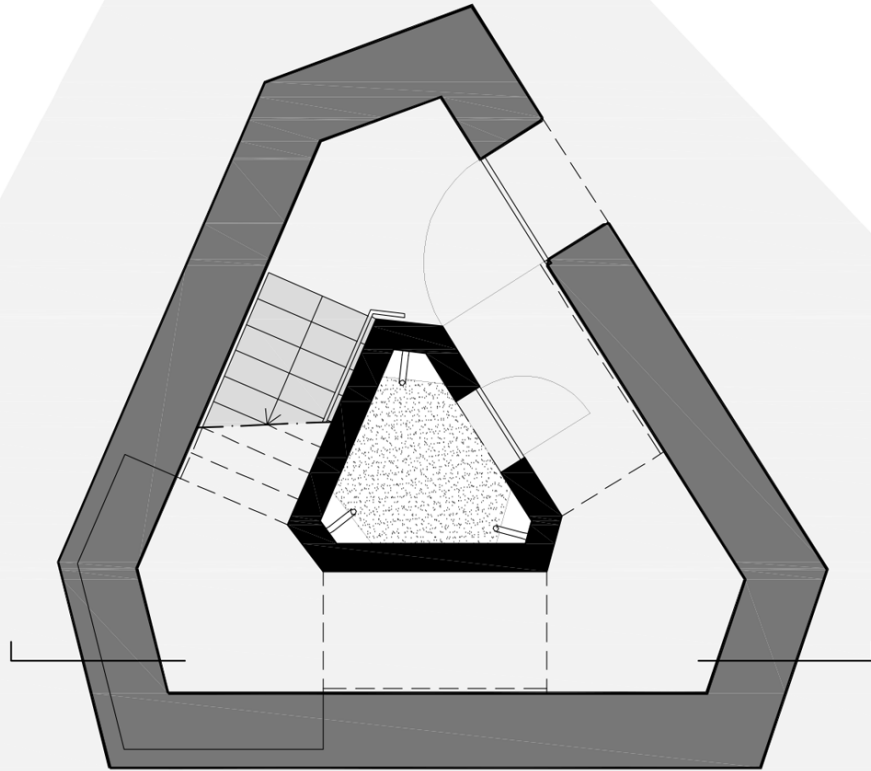
Observation tower Negenoord (Limburg) - 2016  
De gouden liniaal architecten  
*(Filip Dujardin)*



Observation tower, Negenoord

Exterior

*(Filip Dujardin)*

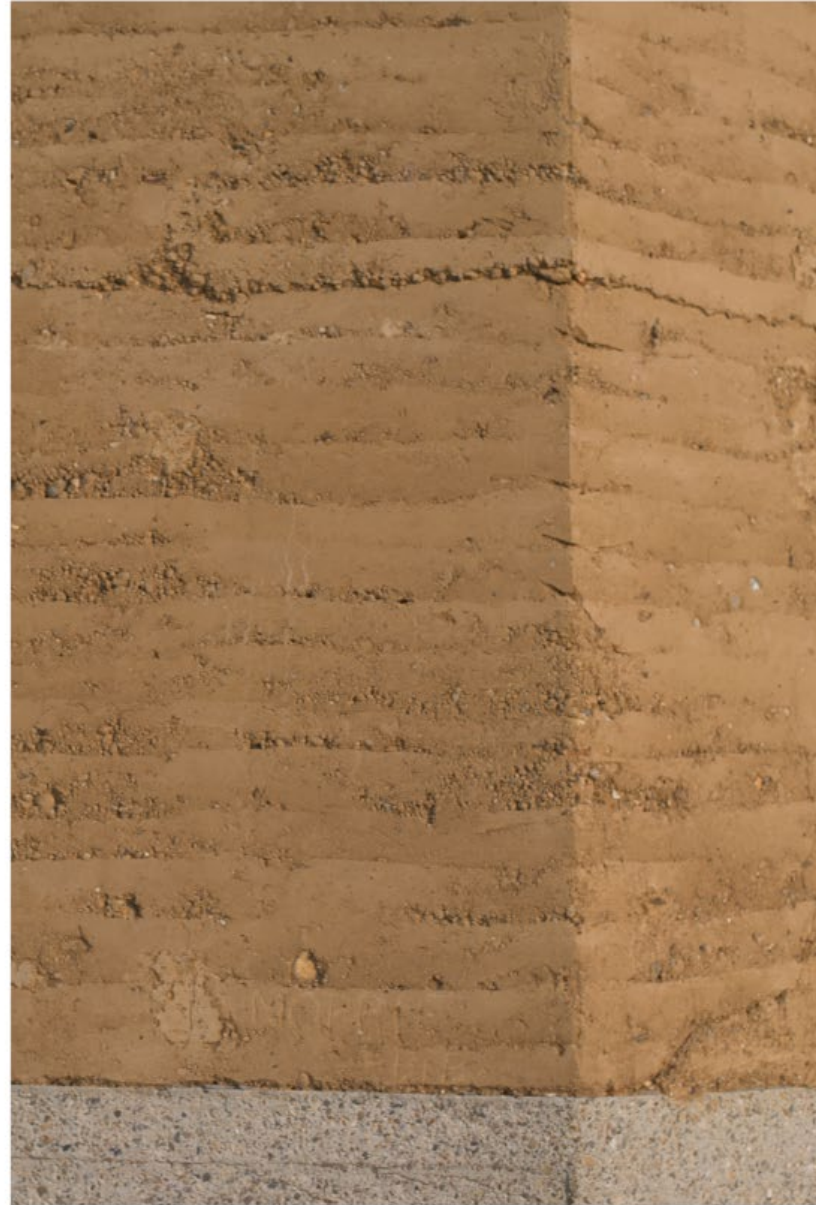


Observation tower, Negenoord  
Plan + 3D

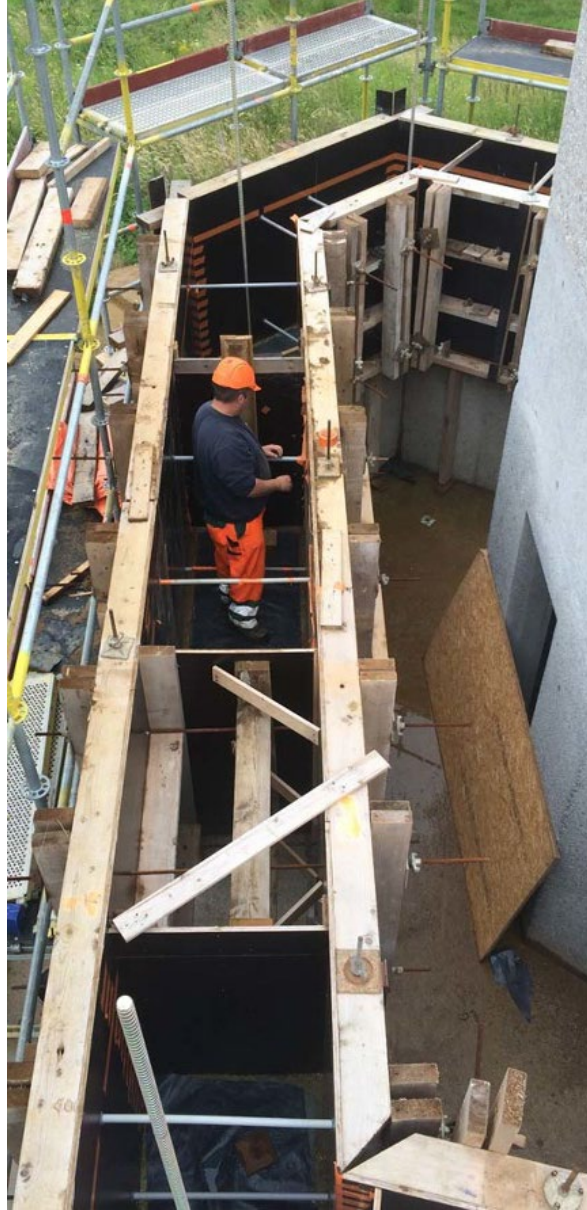




Observation tower, Negenoord  
Interior  
(*Filip Dujardin*)



Observation tower Negenoord  
Close-up of two walls in 2019  
(*Jasper Van der Linden*)



Observation tower Negenoord  
In-situ mixing and construction  
*(BC architects & studies)*

# case studies

bioclass & observation tower



Bioclass, Edegem (Antwerp), 2018  
BC architects & studies  
(*Thomas Noceto*)



Observation tower, Negenoord (Limburg), 2016  
De gouden liniaal architecten  
(*Filip Dujardin*)

# Conclusions

## **Financial cost:**

not necessarily cheaper than conventional construction

## **Technical aspects:**

no technical reasons for not using earth construction in Belgium

## **Environmental impact:**

earth does offer potential to construct with low environmental impact

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